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Consumer Product SAFETY ALERT

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

June 1986

Under laws administered by CPSC, an estimated 325 million potentially hazardous products have been called back from the marketplace and consumers since 1973 (when CPSC was created). Most of these were voluntarily recalled by manufacturers who established programs to repair or replace the products, or to refund the purchase price.

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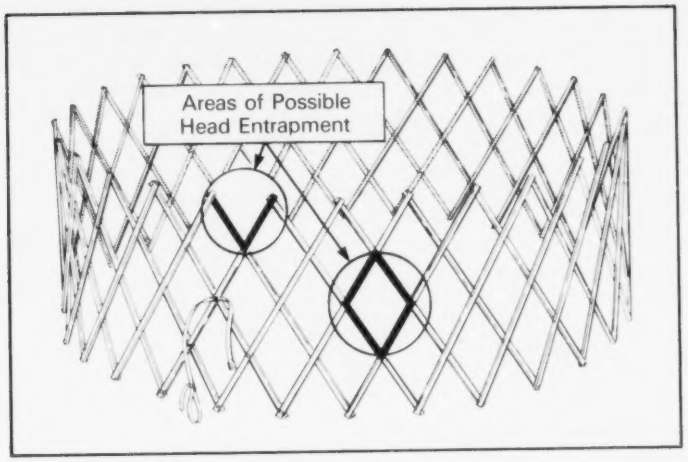
Children's Expandable Enclosures Recalled



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced that it has accepted a Consent Agreement from the staff and six manufacturers of expandable wooden enclosures for infants and toddlers. In accepting the settlement, the Commission and the six manufacturers also announced a recall program for the enclosures. These enclosures are associated with three deaths, one incident of severe brain damage, and at least eleven incidents involving minor or no injuries.

The manufacturers of the enclosures are Memline Corporation (under the name of Nu-Line Industries); WBI, Inc. (formerly Worldsbest Industries, Inc.); Paris Manufacturing Corporation; North States Industries, Inc.; Mapes Industries, Inc.; and Creative Playthings (Creative Playthings last sold these products in 1974). These firms are participating in an extensive public notice and recall program to warn the public of the potential for head/neck entrapment-strangulation hazards presented by the enclosures, and to remove them from the possession of consumers.

The enclosures are constructed of criss-cross wooden slats, riveted together, which expand to form closed circular structures of varying diameters. The Commission estimates that there are approximately 252,000 enclosures presently in the possession of consumers.

Children between the ages of ten and twenty-four months can climb upon the enclosures, and may slip, and catch their heads/necks in the vee-shaped openings at the top of the enclosures, or attempt to crawl through and become entrapped in the diamond-shaped openings in the middle of the enclosures. (See drawing attached.) The angles of the vee-shaped

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Children's Expandable Enclosures Recalled
(continued)

openings are sufficiently narrow so as to entrap the head/neck of a child, resulting in potential death by strangulation or in other serious injury.

Consumers should immediately stop using the enclosures and return them to Nu-Line Industries, which is handling the recall for all the manufacturers. In return, consumers will receive a $10.00 cash refund or a $15.00 coupon which may be used toward the purchase of any product made by the following firms: Nu-Line Industries; Paris Manufacturing Corporation; and North States Industries, Inc. Consumers should call Nu-Line Industries, toll free, at 1-800-558-7300, in Wisconsin call 414-842-2141 collect to arrange for free pick up of the enclosures.

For more information, consumers may call the CPSC's toll-free hotline at 800-638-CPSC. A teletypewriter number for the hearing impaired is 800-638-8270. In Maryland only, call 800-492-8104.